IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 20-21 have been amended and claim 4 has been canceled as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A marker protein for diagnosing liver disease selected from a protein which is a human fibrinogen α-E chain decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 5,900 (5.9 kDa protein), a protein which is an apolipoprotein AII decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 7,800 (7.8 kDa protein)~~, a protein which is apolipoprotein AI and has a molecular weight of 28,000~~ and variants of these proteins which have the same function as that of the proteins as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease.

Claim 2 (original): A marker protein for diagnosing liver disease according to claim 1, wherein the 5.9 kDa protein is a protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, and the variant thereof is a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 3 (original): A marker protein for diagnosing liver disease according to claim 1, wherein the 7.8 kDa protein is a protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 2

in the sequence listing, and the variant thereof is a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A marker protein for diagnosing liver disease according to any one of claims 1 to [[4]] 3, which is for diagnosing a liver disease caused by drinking.

Claim 6 (original): A marker protein for diagnosing liver disease according to claim 5, which is for diagnosing an alcoholic liver trouble or alcohol dependence.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for diagnosing the probability of the onset of a liver disease, the liver disease or the prognosis of the liver disease by detecting or quantifying the marker protein for diagnosing liver disease according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claims 1 to 3 in a sample obtained from a patient who is suspected to have the liver disease.

Claim 8 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 7, wherein the liver disease is a liver disease caused by drinking.

Claim 9 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 8, wherein the liver disease is an alcoholic liver trouble or alcohol dependence.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A diagnosis method according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the detection or quantification of the marker protein for diagnosing liver disease in the sample is carried out by mass spectrometry.

Claim 11 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 10, wherein the diagnosis is

carried out by analyzing the pattern of a spectrum obtained with a mass spectrometer.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A diagnosis method according to claim [[10 or]] 11, wherein the mass spectrometry is carried out with a laser desorption/ionization-time of flight-mass spectrometer (LDI-TOF MS).

Claim 13 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 12, wherein the laser desorption/ionization-time of flight-mass spectrometer is a surface enhanced laser desorption/ionization-time of flight-mass spectrometer (SELDI-TOF MS).

Claim 14 (currently amended): A diagnosis method according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the detection or quantification of the marker protein for diagnosing liver disease in the sample is carried out by an immunoassay method using an antibody against said protein.

Claim 15 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 14, wherein the immunoassay method is an enzyme immunoassay method (EIA method), an immunoturbidimetry method (TIA method), a latex immuno-agglutination method (LATEX method), an electrochemiluminescence method or a fluorescence method.

Claim 16 (original): A diagnosis method according to claim 15, wherein the immunoassay method is an enzyme immunoassay method (EIA method).

Claim 17 (original): A protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, or its variant having the same function as that of said protein as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, said variant being a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:

1.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing~~, or its variant having the same function as that of said protein as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, said variant being a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 2~~.

Claim 19 (original): A method for measuring a protein or its variant according to claim 17 or 18, or a protein which is apolipoprotein AI and has a molecular weight of 28,000 or its variant having the same function as that of this protein as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, by an immunoassay method by the use of an antibody against each of the proteins or the variants.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A ~~diagnosis~~ method according to claim 19, wherein the immunoassay method is an enzyme immunoassay method (EIA method), an immunoturbidimetry method (TIA method), a latex immuno-agglutination method (LATEX method), an electrochemiluminescence method or a fluorescence method.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A ~~diagnosis~~ method according to claim 20, wherein the immunoassay method is an enzyme immunoassay method (EIA method).